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NASHVILLE- Governor Don Sundquist and Department of Labor and Workforce Development Commissioner Michael E. Magill announce the first state sponsored Telecommuting/Teleworking Project. This project came about as one solution to high unemployment in areas with limited employment opportunities and access and infrastructure problems - the kinds of problems that constrain an area's ability to attract new industry. "We are hoping this project will demonstrate to other employers that telecommuting/teleworking is a viable option to helping economies in the hardest hit Tennessee areas," said Commissioner Magill.

We chose Carroll County for the Telecommuting/Teleworking Project, where the unemployment rate in January was 10.4 percent. The Department of Labor and Workforce Development hired three dislocated workers and three Families First participants for data entry of workers compensation claims forms at our Huntingdon Career Center. They will be sending the information back through existing computer and telephone technology to our offices in Andrew Johnson Tower in Nashville. Workers Compensation Administrator Sue Ann Head said, "I am proud to be a part of this program putting Tennesseans back to work."

Commissioner of Personnel, Walter Butler, was instrumental in getting the program off the ground. He said, "In working with jobless individuals all across the state, the Department of Labor and Workforce Development saw a significant need to help those who could not travel all the way to Nashville for work. This Telecommuting/Teleworking Project brings work to a county that needs it. It's a win-win situation for both the Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development and the individual."

Telecommuting/Teleworking has become a trend nationwide, as more people look for alternative methods of employment. According to the international Telework Association and Council (ITAC), approximately 28 million, or one in five, US employees participate in some form of teleworking—at home, on the road, in telework centers, or in satellite offices. The Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development is a recipient of the Tennessee Quality Award, Level II. The Telecommuting/teleworking project is the result of the work of a quality team whose mission was to develop and implement this project.

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The Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development is an equal opportunity employer. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities.

El Departamento del Trabajo y de la Fuerza Laboral es un organismo empresarial que aplica la igualdad de oportunidades. Los Servicios y ayudas auxiliares están disponibles para los individuos con impedimentos si los solicitan.